

Then the investigators entered a secon room. It also was spattered with blood. On a stand stood a basin of blood and water. Near by lay a bloody towel. On the floor was a woman's nightgown cov-cred from neckband to skirt hem with the dle was bloody from grasping place to in-sert of blade and in the crevice bones had been forced by the impact of the blows administered by it.

On a bed lay little Maude. Her head was mangled beyond recognition; her tiny arms were folded over her breast and on them and between the interstices of her fingers a pool of blood in crystal form, had seeped.

Seper's Fatal Letters.

In the room two notes were found. Seat-ed by the side of the bed on which the murdered Maude lay the murderer had composed them. One was addressed to M. K. Hodges, a well known citisen of this

place, and in it he said:
"My family relations have always been
of the most pleasant kind. Give my wife
and babies a decent burial and sell what

The other note read:
"Archie, Mo., 4-21, 91. The other note read:

"Archie, Mo., 4-21, 81.

"Is life worth living? Eight years ago I was released from the pentientiary. Since then my life has been a failure. For four years I have tried to flye in my natify county, but continually met with reminders of my disgrace, sometimes one way the then another. I went to Arkansas hoping to feel better, but the trouble of my disgrace followed me and hus been a burden all the time. No matter how well case tries to live after being in the 'pen,' if he has a sensative nature, there is always someone or another the sense of the dispuse and make him miserable.

"But I might have borne this, if it had not been for another trouble, since I came to Archie I have attended church some, and have been studying about my spiritual welfare.

punishment that has been my lot. Farewell,

thaved and liend lits Bible.

This philosophical monster shaved himself, removed the blood from his hands and arms (the nightdress had protected his cithing), and then sat himself down and raid the libble until 5 o'clock in the morning. As stated, he was nich by a lownsmin at the depot as he bearded his train.

There was a great hue and cry raised. The authorities made extraordinary efforts to capture him until the theory or suicide was advanced. It was accepted and was emphasized into a fact later by the finding of a dead body foating in the Missouri river, which disinterested parties averred was that of Soper.

At the time the body was recovered from the river hoper man in Portland, Ore, and was known as Edward Bates. For six years he lived there and by his habits earned the respect of his associates and neighbors. For four wars he worked for

years he lived there and by his habits earned the respect of his associates and neighbors. For four years he worked for the Pallman Car Company as a cleaner. He married again, his choice being Mrs. Exis Prisco, a demostic in the employ of W. H. Harrington, a lawyer. She was a widow with two children, very devout and of excent domestic tastes. Their life was a bappy one. He was indulgent, she lovable. His old "spell" came over him at times; melanchella would possess him, and the sight of a church would causer a nervous chill. He was always afraid of being recognised. His conscience never ceased to replace him and when a baby hoy, came to his liftie cottage his evil spirit again meetered him.

One night he arese from his bed, in which his wife and child were sleeping, dressed hisself and carefully let himself out of the house into the yard. His wife himself and carefully let himself out of the house into the yard. His wife awoke as he passed out and she followed him. He entered the woodshed; she behind him. He reached down and grasped the handle of as an. She touched him. With a cry he threw the art from him and burst into a violent fit of weeping. She comforted him; led him hack to the house and in-duced him to return to his bed. He ex-plained his conduct by saying that he was a discussibility.

The next day (in April, 1887) he went to his employment as usual, but returned within an hour. He left the house with his hoy and neither ever returned. His wife severtised for him and, having learned his bleatity, communicated with his people, among them Archie, a brother, who is a Kanas City drug clerk.

Canas City drug clerk.

Intuition must have told the brother bere Soper was. He informed Sam Lowe, city detective, of his suspicions, and the Store at such special a correspondence with D. C. Sarnett, prosecuting actionary? I this county, who authorized his to age to Soper whenever Sound.

In Constanted by Sam Lowe,

utilities passers and a warrant were in Lowe's hands and he at once that to Oregon. He traced him jo the law was scaled, where, known mer Les Soper was prespering. Lowe lake at a seignboring farmhouse. He saided at a table, deting, when the de-terminate of the community of the land of and he community in hind and the return to planeaut without any formality, and many in June, 1897, he

by the tree him for news the con-line arrest weeks con-line to the boy was and told her where the but the direc-industrie, and the

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ME A.C

The mother, then 68 years old, dress in deep mourning and with tears coursing down her withered cheeks, gave evidence against the father's character in order to save her unnatural son from the hang-man's nosse. She testified that her hus-band was a drinking man and when in his cups had cruelly misused and abused her;

Soper's attorneys made the most of the prenatal theory, and argued that when So-



D. C. BARNETT.

per entered the world he was a moral degenerate and at no time responsible to the law for any overt act he might commit. The peculiarities of Soper were explated on at length, his devotion to his plated on at length, his devotion to his-wife and babes was dwelt on and impas-sioned pleas were made in his behalt.

Prosecutor Barnett met every argument advanced with cold facts, succincily ex-pressed, and the jury raturned a verdict of guilty.

On December 14 Soper was sentenced to be hanged February 5, 1898, and an appeal was taken to the supreme court. A deci-sion affirming the verdict was handed down February 21, 1899, and the defendant was re-sentenced to be hanged March 30, to-mor-row.

Prosecutor Barnett credits Profess Crafton, Soper's brother-in-law, wi county jail shortly after his return from Oregon. The murderer was in a melancholy mood, and during a recital of fam-

onto a corridor about fifteen feet long and six feet in width. In one corner stands the scaffold. Its building was supervised by the man for whose death it was erseted. The stairway leading to the platform hugs the bars of his cell. The nose of the rope which is to put a deserved end to his life dangles before him. The scaffold suits him, He has tested the stairway and platform twice. He has fondled the rope and viewed



the tests it has been subjected to with satisfaction. He does not fear death; he in-vites its embrace. He has atoned for his

vites its embrace. He has atoned for his sins, he says, and his soul is impregnated with the grace of the Savior.

He will be hanged promptly at \$ a, m, to-morrow, unless the plans of Sheriff Frank Wolbridge are changed by something now unforseen. It will be a simple execution. A minister of the gospel will not be present, nor will a prayer be said. Soper will meet his doom bravely, he says, and wants to be disposed of as quickly as possible.

Yesterday he prepared a statement ex-clusively for The Journal. It is his dying message to the world. In every line can be discerned indications of the peculiarities which have made of him the greatest and the most brutal murderer in the history of Missouri. It reads:

To the Public.

March 29, 1899.

To the Public.

Perhaps a few words from me at this time may be appreciated by all good people. I feel like I have been unjustly persecuted. I know that the circumstances surrounding my birth and the influences under which I have labored have not been rightly understood, and I humbly trust that all right minded people will give careful and due consideration to what I say. About the time of my conception and during the period of gestation my mother was laboring under a conviction of sin. Long years ago she told me about her religious experience. That she firmly believed, at that time if she died in that condition she would be lovever lost. Day after day she thought about it, and many a night- she would get up and walk the floor, troubled with doubts and fears and anxiety, and enfering tortures of mind which only a sin-burdened such can suffer.

Dader such conditions I was conceived and brought into the world. With such an equipment would any of you like to undertake the journey of life? Would and the contract of the contra

dened soul can suffer.

Under such conficient I was conceived and brought into the world. With such an equipment would any of you like to undertake the journey of life? Would you? Remember, rivereds, I do not blame my mother, Far from it. I feel for her only the holicat, tenderest and most served love. I have tried, oh! so hard to live right and do right, and yet failed. Why it has been my lot I don't know. But I will know in a short time.

Now, reader, go back to the time of my birth. Read again, and you will see that my mother's thoughts were indelially impressed on my mind. They were burned into my brain. Then the fire smalderest, and when, long yours afterward. I passed through the samples of through the samples of the samples of the samples of through the samples of the

"Dress Well for Little Money." WOOLF BROS.



For Easter Wear.

Spring Suits \$12 to \$25.

Spring Overcoats \$10 to \$25.

STYLES-The Latest. WEAR-The Greatest.
FINISH-The Most Perfect.
PRICES-The Most Reasonable. The Latest in Easter Neckwear.

E. B. Soper.

and her children are now with her father, Thomas Brownleewee, a farmer who lives near Frederick, Kas., and in his letter he tells of his great love for her and at-tempts to explain his position. The letter is a model of excellent English, and will not be made public until after his execu-tion.

To-day the condemned man's brother, W.

Soper Discusses His "Peculiarities." When Soper handed his farewell state ment to the correspondent for The Jour-nal, he did not move a muscle. He is a weighs possibly 120 younds, has light redgrown since his confinement, and eyes that are a peculiar shade of blue and watery and dim. His hand is as soft as a woman's, his voice soothing and his deportment modest and unassuming. He stood to-day in the doorway of his cell, gasing at the noose dangling from the scaffold, and smiled when asked for an interview.

"I have no more to say," said he, "than is contained in my statement. I have atoned for my sins. I do not fear death. What more can I say?

"Tou ask about my religious convictions. I am a Spiritualist. I believe firmly in Spiritualist, although as a boy I was an Espitist—the "hardest kind. In Archie I wanted to Join the church, but I could not. I was restrained. I was like a sheep lost in the wilderfrees. There was no relief from mental distress. I was not fit to go into a church.

"When my wife joined the church I wanted to so since with her but my my grown since his confinement, and eyes that

into a church.

"When my wife joined the church I wanted to go along with her, but my evil spirit preventee. I labored under a conviction of sin. I tried to get myself forgiven. The mental strain was so great that my brain became bewildered." Murders Were Not Premeditated.

"Before your trouble-just before you had happened to you?" he was asked.

His eyes became watery and he grasped when the cities committee unexpectedly rea bar of his cell before replying.
"I made no preparations," he answered, slowly. "It all came over me in a mo "Do remember getting the az, and ther

"No. I do not," he interrupted. "It is a painful subject, and it distresses me to discuss it—the trouble, I mean,"
"Do you remember writing letters immediately after the trouble?"
"Yes, dimly. I know I wanted to go to Clay county at once. I wanted to kill my evil spirit, George Wade."
"What had he done to you?"
"I do not care to answer."
"Had he not injured an aunt of yours in an estate settlement?"
"Yes, that was it, but he's dead now. He died sincs I came in here."
"When did you realize what you had done?"

when did you realise with the done?"
"When I reached Kansas City. Then a feeling of fear came over me. I wanted to get away, to hide. I went West—to Spokane, Tacoma and—and Portland."
"Did your head bother you much there?"

Felt He Was Doing Wrong. "Yes, more than it ever did here. It was generally the hardest for me to bear in summer. The trouble began in the spring and kept on. I felt I was doing wrong. I was hiding from my wife what I had done. My conscience bothered me. My spirit was whipped with thongs of "Do you remember what you did

"Do you remember what the circumstances of his death were?"
"That is another painful subject. Please to Bot discuss it."

That is another paintul subject. Please do not discuss it."

"You are prepared for the end?"

"I am. I have atoned."

Soper turned in the direction of the scaffold. He smiled after he had reviewed the instrument of death. Then he turned to the sheriff. "I am ready," said he, "when you are."

The voice of the big-hearted sheriff faltered when he replied: "Yes, old man, and you'll be no trouble."

"No trouble, sheriff." was the reply. "I promised you that, and I'll keep my word."

JAMES B. BLOOR. be no trouble."
trouble, sheriff." was the reply. "I
sed you that, and I'll keep my word."
JAMES B. BLOOR.

FOR CRIMINAL LIBEL.

Editor and Publisher of Educational Review Prosecuted for Attacking Tammany.

NEW YORK, March 29 .- On the complaint of Joseph J. Little, president of the board of education of New York city, Charles and Henry Holt, of Holt & Co., publishers, and Nicholas Murray Butler. professor of Columbia university, were to-day arraigned before Judge Blanchard in general sessions on the charge of criminal libel. The Hölts are the publishers of the Educational Review, of which Professor Butler is editor. The charge is that an alleged libelous article on President Little appeared in the February number of the Review, which was entitled "Tammany in the Saddle." The defendants were held in \$500 hell and well appeared for pleading on the Saddle." The defendants were held in \$500 ball and will appear for pleading on Friday.

KIRBY CASE DISMISSED.

Wealthy Springfield Liquor Dealer, Accused of Murder, Goes Free . Temporarily.

SPRINGFIELD, MO., March 39.—(Special.) The proceedings in the J. M. Kirby murder case came to a sudden termination to-day in Judge McAfee's court, when Prosmurder case came to a sudden termination to-day in Judge McAfee's court, when Presecuting Attorney Lovan entered a nelle procqui. Kirby is a wholesale liquer dealer, and is quite wealthy. He is charged with having killed Russell Campbell in this city last fall. A fight, occurred in Kirby's saloon and Campbell was killed, as Kirby allogue, in self-defense. At a Secmer total

there was a hung jury, it standing ten for acquittal and 'two for conviction. In the meantime, a new sheriff was elected and when the second trial was called this week Kirby swore against the aberiff and the coroner was called in to summons the jury. Prosecuting Attorney Lovan protested against the coroner on the ground that he was a client of T. J. Delaney, who is defending Kirby. The court held that the coroner should summon the panel of forty men. This morning after challenges were all in the prosecuting attorney arose and dismissed the case. It is believed that he intends to have a new indistinent found for murder in the second degree. When asked as to why he nollied the case, the prosecuting attorney would give no reason, but it is rumored that he was not satisfied with the jury.

KILLED BY A FIST BLOW.

Employe of a Sparta, Mick., Factory Murdered by an 18-Year-

Old Youth. SPARTA, MICH., March 29 .- Loon Cram, aged 18, killed Falma Nelson, a comrade, to-day, by a blow with his fist. Both boys to-day, by a blow with his net. Both boys were employes of the Welch folding bed factory, and were friends until their quartel to-day. In his anger Cram struck Nelson on the point of the jaw, causing it is believed, concussion of the brain, resulting in Nelson's instant death. Cram surrendered to the authorities.

CONSTABLE SHOT WELL

Two Bad Texans Who Resisted Arrest Came Out of the Trouble Minus Their Lives.

DALLAS, TEX., March 29.-Robert Lynch and Robert Finch, two prominent citizens at Brandon, a small town near here on the Cotton Belt railroad, have been shot and killed while trying to "run the town." They were drunk and proceeded to shoot out the lights. Constable Bob Hoaks tried to ar-rest the men. They resisted and the shoot-ing became general. After the smoke cleared away, Lynch and Finch were found dead.

Fatal Indianapolis Quarrel. INDIANAPOLIS, IND., March 29.—Adolph Fischer and Edgar E. Van Cleave, cabinet-makers, quarreled this afternoon over a watch. Fischer struck Van Cleave with his fist and the latter, hurled a chisel at Fischer, which struck the carotid artery, causing Fischer to bleed to death in fifteen minutes. Van Cleave was arrested.

NEW YORK BRIBERY INQUIRY.

Assembly Votes to Probe Its Charges Slush Fund. ALBANY, N. Y., March 29 .- One of the

ported a resolution calling for the appoint-ment by the speaker of an investigating committee of seven to inquire into reports that a fund had been raised by assessment among the members of the New York city among the members of the New York city police force to defeat by bribery the passage of the pending police bills, the chief among which provides for a single headed commission to be appointed by the mayor, and subject to removal by the governor.

The Democratic members denounced the attempt to force the resolution as a violation of the rights of the minority. The speaker ruled against the Democratic leader and a scene of disorder and confusion ensued.

At one point during the debate, Mr.

ensued.

At one point during the debate, Mr. Green, of New York, shook his first in the face of the Republican leader, Mr. Aldis. After five amendments to the resolution, calling for the extension of the investigation of rumors of bribery in connection with the Astoria gas bill and other measures had been defeated, the original resolution was passed, after all but seven of the Democratic members had left the chamber, by a vote of 87 to 7.

READ OUT OF THE PARTY. Democratic Legislators Officially De nounced for Voting for Addicks for Senator.

DOVER, DEL., March 29.-The Demo-cratic state central committee met here to-day and unanimously adopted a set of low and Representatives William E. King and James B. Clark for voting for J. Ed-ward Addicks for United States sensior at the recent session of the Delaware legislature and calling upon them to resign their offices as state senator and representatives,

offices as state senator and representatives, respectively.

The resolutions state that the three members of the legislature betrayed the trust confided in them, and they are no longer worthy to be considered members of the Democratic party, or of the respect of their fellow citisens. The resolutions further state that "it is the general opinion that Farlow. King and Clark were corruptly influenced to vote for J. Edward Addicks." and that the support of the organization, individually and financially, is tendered to the state authorities to assist in ferreting out all frauds or bribery in connection with the last session of the legislature.

EX-SENATOR GRAY MADE JUDGE President McKinley Appoints a Dem ocrat to the Federal Beach

in Delaware. WASHINGTON, March 29.—President McKinley to-day appointed ex-Senator George Gray, of Delaware, to be United States judge for the Third judicial district. Senator Gray's term expired at the close of the last congress. His service in that body began March 19, 1885, when he was appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the appointment of Thomas F. Bayard as secretary of state.

Senator Gray was recognized as one of the leading Democrats of that body and was recently a member of the commission which met at Paris to prepare the treaty of peacs with Spain and was also a mem-ber of the United States and Canadian joint high commission.

"STRONGER THAN EVER."

Tammany Chief's Opinion of antem in the West and South. ST. LOUIS, March 28.-John C. Sheehan

PIANO BARGAIN.

For To-day, Friday and Saturday.

ILL TH

We started out this week to sell 35 Pienes at special a that we had returned when we closed up our Kansas agreeded. We have 12 left, which we intend positively to close out by factured and guaranteed by the makers and by us. Look at these

1-Mendelesohn Piane, regular price, \$225; sale price..... Sem 3-Henry F. Miller Piano, regular price, \$325; sale price . . Setg 6-Franklin Piano, regular price, \$325; sale price...... 9-Sterling Piano, regular price, \$350; sale price.......\$237 10-Blasius Piano, regular price, \$400; sale price......\$295 11-Blasius Piano, regular price, \$500; sale price......\$325 12-Chickering Piano, regular price, \$500; sale price \$350

TERMS TO SUIT PURCHASER.

Carl Hoffman,

In Kansus City than all the other high grade Pianes combined.

It is of assured musical quality and the musical

sicians use it------ SATISFACTI

We sell it to you for one profit, which is in sible for the dealer Common

F. G. SMITH, "CAN MARKED IN

Silverware

FOR EASTER WEDDINGS-

There's hardly anything quite so satisfactory for a wedding present as Solid Silveyware of some description. Especially is this true of the many original designs we are showing in Gorham silver. The productions of this firm always lead in artistic beauty, besides being destrable be-cause of the stamp of quality given them by the name Gorham.

> Baccards 1032 MAIN ST.

Catalogue Jewery and Silver Novelties Free



tory, for, despite the successful conduct of the war by the present administration, the present policy of imperialism is each day making new enemies for the Republican

QUAY COMING NORTH.

Will Return From Florida to Manage His Senatorial Campaign in Person. HARRISBURG, PA., March 29 .- State

Treasurer Beacom, who is assisting in the management of Senator Quay's campaign for re-election to the United States senate. said to-day that the senator was coming north from Florida to direct his campaign in person. Mr. Beacom says it is Mr. Quay's purpose to stand as a candidate for delegate to the next state Republican convention from Beaver county, and to lead his forces on the floor of the convention.

WYMORE'S HUGE DEBT.

Thriving Little Nebraska City Owes More Than \$100 for Each

WYMORE, NEB., March 29.—(Special.) A statement of Wymore's indebtedness, as shown by the report made by City Treasurer Reuling, this week, discloses the startling facts that the city is indebted over \$53,000, which means an indebtedness of \$51,600, which means an indebtedness of over \$21 for every man, weman and child in the city, or over \$100 for each of the \$60 families in the city. These facts were known by very few people and will be a great surprise to most of the citizens here when published. The present interest paid on this indebtedness, combined with current expenses, more than exhausts the annual revenue, and the problem of how the refuce this indebtedness is plant in new werrying our citizens, and the careful for the problem of how the refuce this spring is being these grounds than on the

TO CURE A



F. W. MEYER,

1114 Main Street. **Easter Specialties** Millinery! Any Trimmed Hat in the house

of it! Trimmed Hats of the latest styles from \$1.50 up. You get the best satisfaction at our store. Come and be convinced.

HALF PRICE, Think

New York Millimery Store, M. Lovesthat 1435 Grand Ave. Masquerade costumes for rest at low



Can be found here in all the latest shades and tones—we have the best no-



Perfumery Free For One More Week!